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No 39

THE U. D. C. CONVENTION

JUDGE GANTT OF THE SUPREME COURT DELIVERS AN ADDRESS.

Large Attendance and a Busy Meeting. To Convene in Marshall the Next Time.

The state convention of the United Daughters of the Confederacy was formally opened Tuesday evening. The occasion was the annual address to the Daughters, which was delivered this year by Judge James B. Gantt of the Missouri Supreme Court.

The evening's programme opened with "revelle" after which an invocation by Mr. Briney. Following these was the chorus—"Our Southland."

Mr. Joseph Wilson then presented to Sterling Price Chapter on behalf of his wife, who is an earnest and loyal member of that chapter, a gavel made from the wood of an old scarred tree in the Lexington battle field. Mrs. Campbell, president of Sterling Price Chapter expressed for the members their hearty appreciation of this gift. Miss Gibbs sang "Dixie" with real spirit and much to the delight of the audience. As an encore she gave "Old Folks at Home."

Mrs. Campbell gracefully introduced Judge Gantt to the audience and his speech was the feature of the evening. He spoke of Lexington as a most appropriate place in which to hold a convention because of historical associations. He also brought greetings to the United Daughters of the Confederacy from the veterans who met in convention at Columbia last week. He entertained his hearers with what he called "plain talk" most successfully. His reminiscences were interesting and his expressions on the subject of education met with the hearty approval of all who heard them. He particularly emphasized the teaching of true history to the children and deplored the fact that so many of our histories suppressed much of the truth in regard to the South and the part played by her in the history of our country. After the regular address Judge Gantt made a short and beautifully expressed speech to the veterans who were to receive Crosses of the Legion of Honor. They were as follows: Paul Reinhard, Lexington, and J. A. R. Chamberlain, Charles Tracy, Lewis Olds, Geo. W. Fox, E. Thomas Lee, J. A. Jeffries and Jas. W. Renick, of Odessa.

After the bestowal of crosses Miss Lillian Fulkerson, representing Sterling Price Chapter U. D. C., presented to Judge Gantt a huge bunch of red and white carnations. The flowers were no more beautiful than the sentiments she expressed in presenting them nor more graceful than her manner.

Mrs. Campbell formally introduced Mrs. Annie Worthington Rapley, who is the state president of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, to the audience.

A quartet composed of Messrs. Chiles, Savage, Phillips and Dr. Ramsey sang "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground," after which "taps" was sounded and the programme for the evening was finished.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

The convention opened Wednesday morning with the singing of "America," after which was an invocation by Dr. Howell. President appointed Miss Katherine Nickerson, of Warrensburg, Mo., recording secretary pro tem in the absence of Mrs. Cecil Wilson. Miss Mary Henry sang as a solo "Mas'r's in the Cold, Cold Ground." A credential committee was appointed and then Mrs. J. H. Campbell, president of Sterling Price Chapter, U. D. C., Lexington, Mo., welcomed the visitors in a short but most hearty and inspiring speech. Mrs. Rapley, president of Missouri division, expressed appreciation of the cordial greeting given them by Mrs. Campbell on behalf of the local chapter. Mrs. Wm. Aull, regent of Lexington, Lafayette chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution, extended a welcome to the Daughters

of the Confederacy. Her welcome was responded to by Mrs. J. L. Peak, president of Stonewall Jackson chapter, Kansas City, Mo.

Mrs. Rapley, as president of Missouri division, read her annual report that was most satisfactory. Where there only ten chapters in the state a year ago Mrs. Rapley reported twenty-three now. A movement has been started to organize a children's auxiliary in connection with the Daughters' organization. Mrs. Rapley urged the formation of children's chapters and asked that the various chapters use diligence in respect to bestowal of Crosses of the Legion of Honor on the veterans who are leaving so rapidly for their last "camping ground."

After the president's report the minutes of last meeting were read and officers' reports received.

During the morning a most interesting paper was read by Mrs. Blake L. Woodson of Kansas City, State Historian, "Shall the United Daughters of the Confederacy be Historians." Following was copy the paper in full: SHALL THE UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY BE HISTORIANS?

When the last act in the great civil war drama was over, when that noblest of heroes, Robert E. Lee, surrendered at Appomattox, the light of right and Southern independence went out. When the men of his army, tattered, starving, and worn, laid down their arms they felt the desolation that comes only to those who know that for some inexplicable reason wickedness has overcome righteousness and that they must yield. When all was over what did each tattered, battle worn hero in gray do? Did he fawn and cringe on the "powers that be?" No! he turned his face southward and homeward; he traveled on only to find that his feet were traversing an almost unknown path, so changed was its aspect. In vain he looked for familiar landmarks and found none remaining. Where once stood the noble home amid flowers and shade he found blackened chimneys standing like grim sentinels guarding the ruins about them—silence everywhere. Here and there a familiar flower bloomed; a jasmine torn down, trampled on and cast aside still clambered lovingly and blossomed about broken pillars that once supported the great portico which overshadowed the ever open hospitable door. His heart seemed broken; there was nothing left—hope, ambition, yes, his very manhood seemed crushed, and he bowed his head in the agony which comes to the defeated. Nothing left! Then there came from out the desolation and darkness a frail figure with somber garments trailing about her, her face illumined with love, tenderness and hope; with outstretched hands she glides to his side and the musical voice of the Southern woman greeted him.

She, too, had suffered more than he ever dreamed, but through suffering she has grown strong. By his side she stands, she bids him welcome; no matter if his gray jacket is worn and of linen he has none, no matter if he is travel stained and his feet are bare and torn, he is to her a noble hero, her knight. Tenderly she binds up his wounds; clothes him in raiment of cloth made by her fair hands, the warp and woof of which is filled with tender thoughts and prayers for the soldiers wearing the gray. She soothed him and brought back by her winning ways and wise counsel hope, and caused the fire of ambition to glow and glisten until he felt strong and anxious to do battle again, not in the bloody holocaust of war, but the battle of life for daily bread, the battle to bring order out of chaos. Did he succeed? Look dear friends with pride upon the new South, builded on the ruins of the old; look at her progress and prosperity; hear the hum of her mills and factories; see her iron industries; see the progress she has made in the arts and sciences; count her artists and literateurs and then tell me was ever so much accomplished before by a stricken handicapped people? A people who for years after the close of hostilities were humiliated, disfranchised, deprived of self government, taunted, belittled by those who had by superior numbers defeated

them. How was all this accomplished in so short a time? for it is the marvel of the world. How was it done? By the efforts of that gray clad soldier with a Southern woman's love, trust, confidence and encouragement ever surrounding him. When she saw him strong and forging ahead with prosperity and success shining upon him, did she sit down and take her ease? No! Go with me everywhere, anywhere and you will see the work of her never wearying hands. She gathered her daughters about her and bade them to continue the work. Nobly they responded to her call and the small number has multiplied until today as the United Daughters of the Confederacy they stand nearly 50,000 strong and still increasing. Will the memory of the Confederacy ever die with such an array to keep the watch fires burning? They wish no harm to harm to any, but they assume the right to guard the memories of that sacred time for ever. These chapters extend from New York to the Pacific, from the great lakes to the Gulf. What have they accomplished these daughters, offspring of that Southern war matron? Look! Hospitals memorial halls, educational institutions with free tuition and board for Southern orphans and children of ex-confederates, homes everywhere for the battle scarred veterans whose lives are cheered and blest by their sweet ministrations. The good works of the Southern woman through her loyal daughters are countless. North, South, East and West we find them at work. Shafts of marble and granite raised on hilltop and plain to the memory of the heroes sleeping there "awaiting the judgment day."

Even in Washington City, the capitol of this country, they have by tact and gentleness persuaded congress to donate a plot of ground upon which will soon be erected a grand and fitting memorial to the Southern soldiers. All these years their hearts and hands have been full of earnest work and they have had no time to question history. The Southern woman from whence springs our noble organization, and there are many left yet, thank God, never studied historical conditions closely before the civil war. She knew the outlines and was well read but history was left to her statesmen. When the mutterings came, which preceded the civil war, she knew that an insult had been offered and a blow to state sovereignty given. She heard it discussed and when her statesmen in congress spoke in no uncertain tones and demanded that the domestic affairs of the Southern states be let alone, she felt that they must be heeded because they were right. Then when argument had no effect and she saw the states seceding she felt no fear for the outcome. True her face paled and she listened with bated breath as the guns from Fort Moultrie in South Carolina harbor thundered forth a demand for the surrender of Fort Sumpter. That was but the beginning. She heard the roar of cannon and rattle of musketry at Bull Run and she can yet tell of those other terrible battles which left ineffaceable scars on the breast of that dear "mother of states," Virginia.

She remembers the agonized tears she wept over husband and sons brought home dead and yet in her heroism she gave other dear ones to fill the gap in the fast thinning ranks. She remembers the gaping wounds, the severed limbs and all the horrors of that time. Still fresh in her memory is that devastating march of Sherman to the sea. That march whose path was marked by pillage, devastation and ruin. She can tell you of Chicamunga, Missionary Ridge, Vicksburg, Wilson's Creek, Shiloh and hundreds of others where her loved sons laid down their lives for state rights. To her the cause was just and right, for Davis, Lee, Jackson, Johnson and Beauregard and a host of others had said so and cast their lot with the South, and if they said it was just it must be so. All that these dear gray haired women know is history pure and true. Recognizing this and knowing that our children are being taught the wrong history the United Daughters have

awakened to the fact that there must be a true history of the South written, and this great body of women propose to begin at once to examine the records. Oh, such a rich, beautiful field is open before them for investigation.

They need not be afraid to examine every nook and corner for no blot or stain can be or ever has been truthfully laid upon her people. They will hear the voice of the great Calhoun protesting against wrong and demanding the right. They will see how the Missouri compromise was accomplished. Every step they go they will wonder at the patient forbearance of their Southern ancestors. Honorable in all things, generous and chivalrous they did not suspect nor could they have understood the trickery and deceitful methods practiced by Northern politicians. If we ask our children why this war was fought we will be told by them it was to free the poor negro, that humanity and Christianity demanded it and the wicked South had to be thrashed into doing her duty. Such is the history taught them. They forgot there was a commandment given by the eternal Father which says "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods," &c., and another "Thou shalt not steal." Both of these have been transgressed. What first they envied they finally stole. We will find through historical research that had the positions been different, had slavery existed and been favored in the North it would exist there now. Could they have utilized the negro, had the climate agreed with him, these humanitarian views would never have been in evidence. Had there never been slavery South and had she disapproved of it, her innate good breeding and chivalry would not have permitted her to meddle with the domestic affairs of her sister states of the North.

My dear Southern sisters we are awakening everywhere to the fact that the minds of the youth are being perverted by false history. Let us gather every law record, let us search with an x-ray into the history of this country and we will preserve the records, we will discuss them in every way, we will leave the facts and the truth; by these means we will become so familiar with every point, every record, that we will each be a walking, breathing history, and with the help of our loving Father who has ever blessed our efforts there will come a day in the near future when the history written by brainy Southern women will be accepted by the world as the only true history written on the subject of the civil war and the causes which led to it.

What greater joy could we ask, what greater glory could we know, what more lasting memorial, what grander monument could be erected to the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the offspring of those valiant Southern women, whose courage and love sustained the Southern soldier in his hour of defeat than this that their brains and hands gathered the records and compiled a history, thereby giving to the world the truth regarding the noble and brave soldiers, not "rebels" and "traitors" but patriots, and the cause for which they fought and died.

Badges were distributed to the delegates and also small confederate flags were presented to the delegates and local members with the compliments of the Lexington News. A note of thanks for the flags was passed by the convention.

At twelve o'clock a motion to adjourn was carried.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

Soon after convening Wednesday afternoon the following telegram was sent:

LEXINGTON, Mo., Sept. 30th, 1903. Mrs. Jefferson Davis, Buffalo, N. Y. The Missouri Division "United Daughters of the Confederacy" in convention assembled, extend to you our love and sympathy and good wishes for your speedy restoration to health. Mrs. E. D. HORNBECK, Mrs. JAS. B. GANTT, Miss NELLIE POTTS, Committee.

The session was devoted to the annual reports of the chapters. These

were as a whole very encouraging to the association. During the afternoon a motion was carried that the Missouri Division of the U. D. C. request of Thomas Nelson Page that he write a history of the South. The feeling was that he would give a true history of the people of the South and one that would be very widely read.

The report of committee on revision of the constitution was received and before completing the discussion the convention adjourned till Thursday.

THURSDAY MORNING.

The convention was opened with an invocation by Dr. Gordon, following which he made an interesting talk to the daughters.

The discussion of the constitution as revised by a committee appointed for that purpose was continued from the afternoon previous. The committee having this revision in charge was composed of Mrs. G. W. Hyde, of Lexington, Mrs. P. G. Robert, of St. Louis, and Mrs. J. M. Phillips, of Kansas City. The greater portion of the morning was given to this important matter and the revised constitution was adopted almost in full.

Mrs. W. G. McCausland, who is the founder of Sterling Price chapter and first president thereof, was introduced to the convention. Her appearance was the signal for applause. Mrs. McCausland is always gladly heard on any subject, but the one she brought to the ear of the convention particularly appealed to that body. She talked of the song of the South, "Dixie," and appealed to the delegates to take some steps toward the fitting of more suitable words to that tune than are now sung with it. Having heard her the convention unanimously voted that Mrs. McCausland be requested to compose words and send to the committee appointed at the New Orleans convention last year to attend to that matter.

Mrs. Campbell, president of Sterling Price chapter, announced on behalf of the hospitality committee that after luncheon, which was served the ladies in the basement of the church, carriages would be in attendance to convey those who desired to go to the Lexington battlefield. Some had already taken advantage of the kind invitation extended the visitors by President Smith, of Central College, to visit it, but a large number were driven to the field and enjoyed a look over that historic ground.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

The convention opened its session Thursday afternoon with vocal solo, "Maryland My Maryland" by Miss Gibbs. The song was received with great applause and Miss Gibbs acknowledged the appreciation of her audience by giving them "Dixie" in her inimitable rendition of that favorite of both the sons and daughters of the South.

Matters of business were taken up. The getting possession of the Confederate Home cemetery which now belongs to the Confederate Home Association. As a committee in charge of this undertaking, Mrs. R. E. Wilson, Kansas City; Mrs. A. E. Asbury, Higginsville; Mrs. M. S. Reinhardt, Waverly, were appointed.

A committee was appointed to form resolutions on the death of Mrs. Margaret Gordon, who is an honorary member of Sterling Price Chapter 213. Report of monument committee of which Mrs. William Aull is chairman was submitted and approved of.

The question of the entertainment of the national convention by the Missouri Division U. D. C. at St. Louis next year was discussed. Each chapter cheerfully pledged to rally to the support of the St. Louis chapters in defraying the expenses of the convention.

Officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows: Mrs. Annie Washington Rapley, St. Louis, President; Mrs. J. M. Phillips, Kansas City Chapter, Kansas City, Mo., 1st vice president; Mrs. Ryland Todhunter, Sterling Price Chapter, Lexington, Mo., 2nd vice president; Miss Katherine Nickerson, F. M. Cockrell Chapter, Warrensburg, Mo., recording secretary; Mrs. Frank Gallennie, M. A. E. McClure Chapter, St. Louis, corresponding secretary; Mrs. G. W. Hyde, Sterling Price Chapter, Lex-

ington, Mo., treasurer; Mrs. Blake L. Woodson, Kansas City Chapter, Kansas City, Mo., historian.

All the officers, save recording secretary, who was newly elected, were unanimously reelected.

An invitation was extended the daughters to hold their next convention in Marshall, Mo. as guests of the Robert E. Lee Chapter there. The invitation was accepted.

After repeating in concert the motto of the Daughters of the Confederacy,

"Lord God of Hosts,
Be with us yet
Lest we forget,
Lest we forget."

A verse of "God be with you till we meet again" was sang and the Doxology.

And then at five o'clock adjourned one of, if not the most successful and harmonious convention in the history of Missouri Division of the Daughters of the Confederacy.

Sterling Price chapter, Lexington, Mo., Mrs. J. H. Campbell, president; Misses Pearl Reeder, Laura Hyde and Ella Nickell.

F. M. Cockrell chapter, Warrensburg, Mo., Miss Katherine Nickerson, proxy of the president.

Kansas City, Chapter, Kansas City, Mo., Mrs. Hugh Miller, president; Mesdames E. D. Hornbrook, G. B. Mosely, Miss Hallie Hocker.

R. E. Lee chapter, Marshall, Mo., Mrs. R. W. Nichols, president; Mrs. D. F. Bell and Miss Frances Napton.

Stonewall Jackson chapter, Kansas City, Mo., Mrs. John L. Peak, president; Mesdames William S. Claggett, W. C. Quinlan and R. E. Wilson.

Kate K. Salmon chapter, Clinton, Mo., Mrs. J. M. Weidmeyer, president; Mrs. W. F. Carter.

Confederate Home chapter, Higginsville, Mo., Mrs. M. L. Beit, president; Mrs. A. Barnes.

Cape Girardeau chapter, Cape Girardeau, Mo., Mrs. R. L. Wilson, president.

Sterling Price chapter, St. Joseph, Mo., Mesdames F. A. Chase, Anna E. Patten, Misses Emily Davis and Isabel Stewart.

Independence chapter, Independence, Mo., Mrs. J. W. Mercer, president; Mrs. Nannie B. Wallace.

Winnie Davis Chapter, Jefferson City, Mo., Mrs. Mattie Weidmeyer Gantt, president; Mrs. Sarah S. Mann (children's auxiliary).

M. A. E. McClure chapter, St. Louis, Mo., Mrs. P. G. Robert, president; Mesdames Frank Gallennie, U. P. Howard, George Tyler, N. W. Beall.

Richmond Grays, Fayette, Mo., Mrs. H. A. Bond, president; Miss Nellie Booth Potts.

Bettie Shelby chapter, Waverly, Mo., Misses Elizabeth Corder and Nettie Richardson.

St. Louis chapter, St. Louis, Mo., Mrs. Arie DeJong.

John S. Marmaduke chapter, Columbia, Mo., Mesdames A. E. Allen, Geo. Trimble, Annie Stephens Smith.

Emmett McDonald chapter, Sedalia, Mo., Mrs. W. F. Hansberger, president.

The following resolutions were adopted by the Convention of the U. D. C. Thursday afternoon in regular session:

- 1st. That this convention extends their heartfelt thanks to the president and members of Sterling Price Chapter of Lexington for their cordial hospitality.
- 2nd. To Judge James B. Gantt for his inspiring and beautiful address.
- 3rd. To the Christian church for the use of the beautiful building. Also to the ladies of the church for the appetizing and dainty lunches.
- 4th. To the young ladies for the sweet music.
- 5th. To the press of the city and the ministers who so kindly met with us.
- 6th. And last but not least to the hostesses who have entertained us so hospitably. Another link has been forged in the golden chain of friendship that binds together the hearts of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Mrs. H. E. BOND,
Mrs. C. W. McFARLAND,
Mrs. E. D. HORNBECK.

Miss Harriet Hocker, a delegate to the U. D. C. convention and a guest of the Misses Graddy, returned Thursday evening to Kansas City.